

Community Action for a Renewed Environment



Empowering Communities to Reduce
the Risks from Toxic Pollutants

Program Overview

What is CARE?

CARE is a **community based**,
community driven, **multimedia**
program to create partnerships that
help local communities understand
and reduce risks from toxics.



Why CARE?

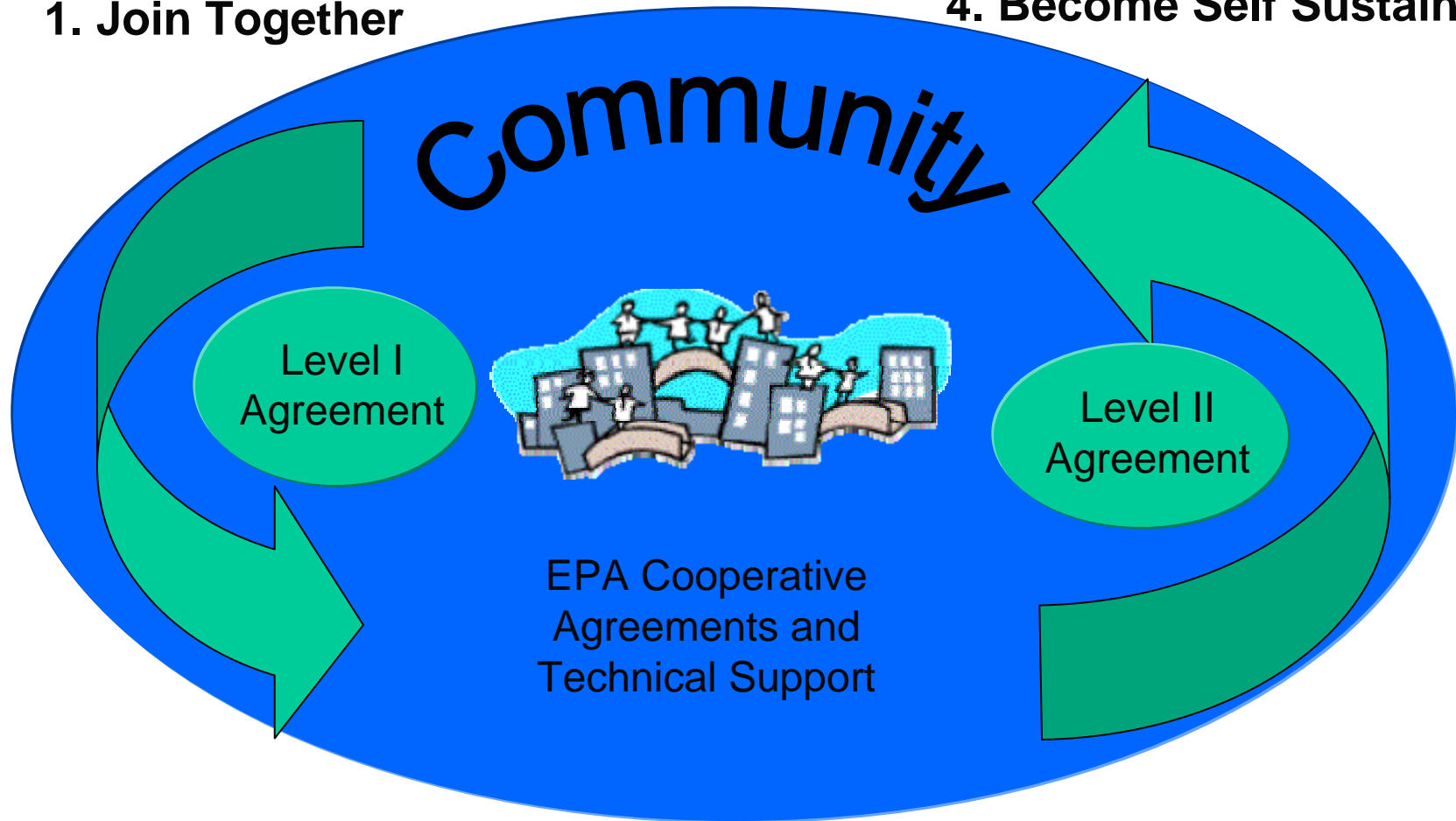


- ❑ CARE enhances Agency and other Federal efforts to address community concerns.
- ❑ CARE goes beyond the regulatory approach using customized resources.
- ❑ CARE links agency programs together to efficiently support communities.
- ❑ CARE partners with local efforts, resources and knowledge to achieve results.
- ❑ CARE promotes community consensus on sources of risk and risk reduction options.

How CARE Works

1. Join Together

4. Become Self Sustaining



2. Identify Problems and Solutions

3. Implement Solutions/
Reduce Risks

Funding CARE Communities

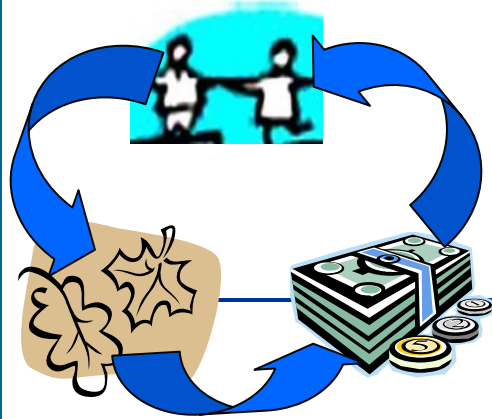
Nationally competed cooperative agreements will be awarded in two categories.



CARE is More than Money

- EPA works directly with communities to:
 - Provide technical support and information, including
 - Scientific expertise and assessment
 - Collaboration support to set priorities and take action to reduce risks
 - Deliver EPA voluntary programs to help address community concerns
 - Facilitate networking among communities to share learning





CARE Leverages Resources

- ❑ Mobilizes communities, bringing new energy and resources to bear to solve environmental problems.
- ❑ Encourages the business community to use collaborative approaches and to invest in environmental improvements.
- ❑ Engages the foundation community's experience with supporting local environmental and capacity building initiatives.
- ❑ Provides opportunities for colleges and universities to expand partnerships with communities.

The CARE Partners Program



- CARE Partner Communities are treated the same as CARE funded communities.
 - Receive technical support.
 - Work with EPA regional staff.
 - Included in national CARE trainings.
 - Are part of the CARE network.

- A new tool for Regions working with communities without CARE funding.
 - Funding comes from other sources.
 - Community agrees to follow CARE process and report results.

CARE Goals and Strategies

- ❑ Educate and support communities
- ❑ Build effective stakeholder collaborations
- ❑ Provide tools for understanding toxic risks and setting priorities for risk reduction
- ❑ Focus on action
- ❑ Mobilize local resources and use voluntary programs
- ❑ Build long term community capacity for sustainability



Benefits for Communities



- ❑ Provides risk reduction unattainable through national regulations.
- ❑ Helps communities improve understanding, build consensus, and promote collaborative solutions.
- ❑ Builds capacity for environmental stewardship.
- ❑ Participation in a network of communities learning from and supporting each other.

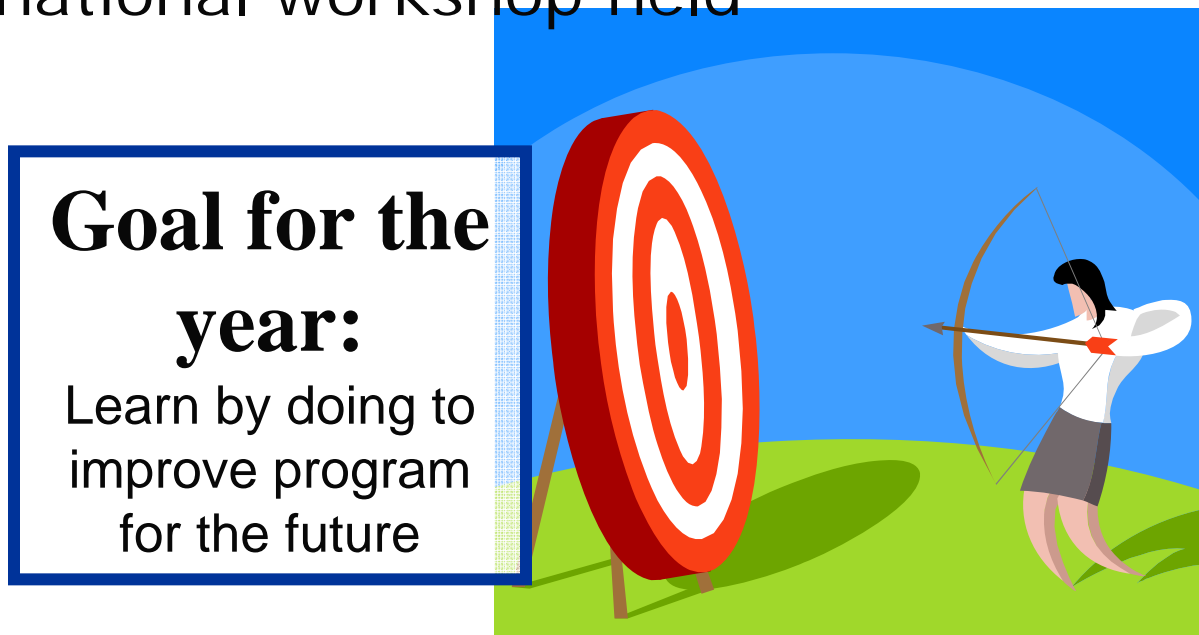
Creates Change in EPA



- ❑ EPA becomes an environmental protection enabler and resource broker
- ❑ Creates a structure to support community based work on a large scale
- ❑ Creates a mechanism to address multiple sources and cumulative risks in communities
- ❑ Breaks down EPA stovepipes
- ❑ Tracks results and generates direct community feedback

Proposed CARE timeline

- ❑ **March 2008:** RFA announced
- ❑ **June 2008:** Funding recipients selected
(up to 6 Level I and 4 Level II)
- ❑ **October 2008:** Grants awarded & Training and national workshop held



CARE Creates a Climate for Positive Action in Communities

- Helps communities gain a comprehensive view of toxics issues
- Promotes positive action through consensus building and collaborative solutions.
- CARE enables communities to set their own priorities and choose the voluntary solutions that best fit their needs.





CARE & Existing EPA Programs

□ Similarities:

- Builds on successes and lessons learned from existing and past EPA community based programs
- Empowers communities to set their own priorities and choose the best voluntary solutions

□ Differences:

- Focuses on toxics exposure comprehensively
- Creates a network of communities to support each other
- Effectively delivers a range of EPA voluntary programs
- Mobilizes a CARE network of EPA staff

Benefits for Businesses



- ❑ Creates a positive dynamic to encourage businesses to become partners in local collaborative efforts.
- ❑ CARE's collaborative process is a responsible way to deal with environmental concerns.
- ❑ Helps businesses build good relationships in the community
- ❑ Provides information to businesses, on EPA voluntary programs and on potential start-up funds, to help them reduce emissions and costs.



For more information

□ www.epa.gov/care